State of California • Department of Transportation

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REAL McCOY FERRY REPAIRS CONTINUE; J-MACK REPAIRS COMING

Solano County – Dry dock repair work on the 63-year old Real McCoy ferry enters its fourth week. This includes internal and external hull repairs that weren't evident until the ferry was taken out of the water and repair crews were better able to evaluate the hull's condition. Repairs also include refurbished propellers, extensive mechanical repairs, a new coat of paint and several upgrades to meet U.S. Coast Guard mandates. These mandates prompted Caltrans to extend the original repair schedule for the vessel.

To fast track the ferry's return to service contract crews are working extended work shifts, including weekends, to get the vessel in ship-shape for its return to service. The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has determined that after a six-week-long comprehensive upgrade, the Real McCoy will return to the Sacramento River Delta by Sunday, February 22.

The ferry, which provides non-stop service from State Route 84 in Rio Vista to Ryer Island in Solano County, was sent to its first dry-dock service in eight years on January 12.

Caltrans will perform a seven-day test run (with full service) after the Real McCoy returns and will then pull the J-Mack cable ferry for a similar procedure beginning early March 2009. Like the Real McCoy, the J-Mack also runs year-round and on a 24-hour basis.

Both ferries service Ryer Island, a farming and resort community with a population of approximately 400 people. The only other access to the island is through the Miners Slough Bridge, which remains open. While the Real McCoy has been out of service, Ryer Island residents have had to endure a more than 40-mile detour to Rio Vista and points beyond.

An update on the J-Mack's repair schedule will be provided later by Caltrans. A video on the Real McCoy can be viewed at http://d4web/videos/index.htm.

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